



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 04-01

Date:
Jan. 09, 2004

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expediting in-water permits for flood repairs and maintenance

Walla Walla, Wash.—With the recent snowfall and forecast for rain and warmer temperatures, the potential exists for flooding in some parts of Idaho. Except for some "emergency" repair and maintenance during a flood event, people who want to do in-water work may need a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to Brad Daly, Chief of the Walla Walla District Regulatory Division.

"The Corps will make every effort to expedite required permits. In some cases, we need to have an application filled out and submitted for processing. But during emergencies, we can give general authorizations for needed repairs over the telephone," said Daly.

Emergency work is defined as work which involves a hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if the work is not done in less time than is needed for processing a standard permit application.

"We know that no one wants to hear that permits are required when they need to protect their property from flooding. We understand and appreciate this and want to help them protect their property," said Daly, "but we also need to do what we can to protect the environment as well. We will do all we can to streamline coordination with other federal, state and local agencies and the public. The following notes may help answer questions and concerns."

- A Corps **permit is required** for work below the ordinary high water mark or in wetlands. In general, debris should not be disposed in the waterway, high flow channels, or wetlands. Wholesale channel clearing, cleaning and relocation require an individual permit application and is discouraged. In addition, high flow channels and wetlands, which can carry or store floodwaters, should not be blocked off.

- The Corps **does not** need to be contacted for work in uplands above the ordinary high water mark or in non-wetland areas. This includes placing sandbags around a house or

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other structure that is threatened by floodwater, or constructing dikes or levees outside the normal river channel and wetlands.

- Certain types of work are **exempt** from permit requirements. Among these are excavation of gravel and debris in the immediate vicinity of bridges, culverts or other structures to maintain the structure. In general, this is limited to within 100 feet of the structure.

Excavated material must be disposed of in a location where it cannot reenter the waterway.

- Repair of existing dikes, dams, levees, ripped banks, breakwaters, causeways, bridge abutments and roadways damaged by recent flooding is exempt if there is no change in the original design.

- In addition to the exempt activities listed above, there are several nationwide permits, which authorize minor activities in waterways. Individuals with questions should contact the Corps for permit requirements relating to their specific situation. Questions may be answered over the telephone with little or no paperwork.

"The Corps wants to help speed permitting for flood recovery efforts," Daly said. A free information packet that explains permit requirements is available from the Corps. For further information or to request this packet, please call the Corps at the following numbers:

- For work in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties, contact Gregg Rayner or Mike Doherty at the Coeur d'Alene Regulatory Office at (208)765-7256 or (208)765-7237.

- For work in Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater and Idaho counties contact Duane Mitchell at the Walla Walla District Office at (509)527-7156.

- For work in Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee, Camas, Blaine counties and the western part of Custer County, contact Greg Martinez or Eric Gerke at the Boise Regulatory Office at (208)345-2154 or (208)345-2286.

- For work in Lemhi, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Gooding, Lincoln, Jerome, Twin Falls, Minidoka, Cassia, Power, Oneida, Bannock, Caribou, Franklin, Bear Lake counties and the eastern part of Custer County, contact Rob Brochu or James Joyner at the Idaho Falls Regulatory Office at (208)522-1645 or (208)522-1676.

Idaho Department of Water Resources may also require a permit for work below the ordinary high water mark of perennial streams and rivers. For their requirements, contact their office in Boise at (208)327-5448 or their office in Twin Falls at (208)736-3033. The Corps of Engineers and the state will cooperate to expedite permit applications for all flood work.

For more information about the Walla Walla District, visit our Internet web site at:

<http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm>